WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Conessions to senior citizens

1150. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether concessions in fare hitherto given to senior citizens have become meaningless with the imposition of new rules by abolishing single fare tickets and requiring advance bookings;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing new curbs on the travel by senior citizens; and

(c) whether a senior citizen is unable to travel at short notice and is forced to pay full fare under the existing rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As there is no advance booking requirement on Air India, the senior citizen may travel even at short notice, subject of course to availability of seats. As regards Indian Airlines, w.e.f. 7th July, 2003, Senior Citizens are required to purchase confirmed ticket at least 7 days in advance of travel date in order to avail concession journeys.

Upgradation of airports

1151. SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the civil aviation sector is poised for overall growth over the next three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to upgrade 30 airports in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 5,000 crores would be required to upgrade these airports to global standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the overall growth of civil aviation sector over the next three years will *inter-alia* depend on growth in GDP, trade and tourism.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) has decided to modernise twenty five non-metro airports in phases with focus on airside and city side development and on enhancement of non-aeronautical revenues. The selection of airports will be made keeping in view their strategic importance and their commercial and traffic growth potential. Indian Financial Consultants (IFCs) and Global Technical Advisors (GTAs) shall be assisting AAI in conducting techno-economic feasibility study of identified airport to evolve an appropriate model based on viability of the project.

(e) The estimated expenditure have not been assessed yet since the development works and their cost will be finalized on the basis of Techno-Economic Feasibility Reports.

Rescheduling of flights during winter

1152. SHRI ANAND SHARMA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of steps taken by the AAI and the DGCA to prevent disruption and diversion of flights from Delhi and North Indian Airports due to fog in winter;

(b) whether there is any proposal for diversion or rescheduling of the scheduled Air India and Indian Airlines flights during December-January; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Fog preparedness for the ensuing winter has